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foundations of this part of our law? In England, these attempts are being made by the most experienced conveyancers, and they date from the suggestions of so eminent a property lawyer as Joshua Williams. In America, the time was certainly not ripe for any departure until Gray and Kales had done their work. But with their assistance, is not the way opening up for a new approach — for some inquiry into the extent to which such rules as those forbidding remoteness and restraints are accomplishing desirable social and economic results, for some modernizing of our common-law heritages which will make their handling less esoteric and their application more certain? Mr. Kales has laid the foundations for some beginnings in this direction in the law of Illinois — where it is needed quite as much as anywhere in the country — and his articles in the first volume of the Illinois Law Review show how alive he is to the need and to the possibility of meeting it constructively.

One first step might be some inquiry into the working of the New York legislation of 1830, which is the only attempt made in America at a thorough overhauling of the law of future interests. Certain it is that we cannot stop with analysis. Some of our law of future interests was imported from England just as the movement for change was beginning to bear fruit there, and so important a jurisdiction as Illinois still keeps rules — as that concerning the destructibility of a contingent remainder — which English law has been free from for the better part of a century. We seem to have arrived at a time when the American law of real property needs Americanization — and the task should be undertaken by the experts of Mr. Kales' understanding and soundness before it falls into less worthy hands.

M. O. H.

A MEMOIR OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR WILLIAM ANSON. Edited by Herbert Hensley Henson. New York: Oxford University Press. 1920. pp. 7-242.

In this little volume the friends of Sir William Anson have joined to express the regard and esteem which the gentle-mannered Warden of All Souls inspired in all who knew him. The composite character of the biography involves some repetition, but the editor has stolen our thunder by pointing out that this defect was inevitable. What repetition there is but accentuates the essentials of Anson's character and achievements and never becomes tedious. A pleasant feature of the book is the printing at the end of each chapter of a letter or two written by Anson himself. In these letters the several memoirs, each from a different pen, find an immediate guarantee of their faithfulness.

Anson's name must be placed high in the law. "The Law of Contract" and "Law and Custom of the Constitution" had become classical before the author's death. These books and years spent in instructing students in the law were his generous contribution to the "revival of legal teaching" at Oxford. It is interesting to note that at about the time Langdell and his successors were developing new methods in legal instruction at Harvard, a little group of men at Oxford (Bryce, Dicey, Maine, Grueter, Anson, Digby) were lifting legal teaching from the rut in which it had lain for the century since Blackstone. Anson's services to education found broader scope than in the law alone. He labored for all the interests of Oxford, as Warden of All Souls, Vice Chancellor, and finally as Burgess for the University. While in Parliament as parliamentary secretary for the Department of Education, although nominally under his chief in the Cabinet, he exercised in reality supreme direction of national education. *Bene natus* he was, Anson gave the lie to *mediocriter doctus* the ancient reproach of Fellows of All Souls.